



PROSPECT HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 23
700 N. Schoenbeck Road * Prospect Heights, IL 60070

February 15, 2019

Dear District 23 Parents, Community and Staff,

As you are aware, between 2013-2015, Prospect Heights School District 23 implemented new geothermal heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in each of our schools.

Shortly after the systems were installed between 2013-2015, we noticed that while the new systems did successfully cool our school buildings, they also created high levels of humidity in our classrooms. We immediately reported and began to work with our architect to remedy these issues. To ensure the safety and well-being of our students and staff, as we worked to find a long-term operational and technical solution, the District enhanced our moisture monitoring, reporting and response and provided additional training to our custodial staff to improve daily cleaning and prevent any mold or mildew.

The District hired StudioGC and their subcontractors, CM Engineering and 2010 Engineering, to provide an HVAC system that would meet standards and work as promised. The District hoped and expected that they would recognize their responsibility, and we made every attempt to resolve the problems and reach a resolution with them, but we were unable to do so. We will continue to seek full restitution from StudioGC and its subcontractors for this breach of contract, so that our students, staff and taxpayers get the classrooms and school environment that they were promised. On Thursday, the Board of Education of Prospect Heights School District 23 filed a lawsuit in the Cook County Circuit Court against StudioGC for breach of contract seeking damages to cover the cost of the repairs and replacements needed to remedy the defective HVAC system designed by StudioGC and its subcontractors.

In 2016, the Board of Education replaced StudioGC with a new architect that has tested a range of solutions to address the humidity issues and I am pleased to share that they have identified an approach that will ensure a comfortable learning environment in our schools. As part of our long-range capital plan, the District will use bond proceeds to begin implementing this solution, which includes the replacement of rooftop units as well as the installation of dehumidification units that can be retrofitted in all of our schools and classrooms. Work will begin at Eisenhower School this summer and at our other school buildings in subsequent years.

The Board of Education is dedicated to maintaining safe and engaging learning environments for our students, staff, and community. We will continue to fight on behalf of the taxpayers as stewards of public funds to hold our contractors accountable for the services and products promised. As we move through this process, we will keep our community informed through periodic updates on our website (www.d23.org) and our monthly "School Scene" newsletter.

As always, we thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Sincerely,

Donald S. Angelaccio, Ed.D.
Prospect Heights School District 23
Superintendent